



**One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515**

June 1, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul:

In March, I wrote to you requesting the Committee on Homeland Security take immediate action to address the ongoing threat of domestic terrorists through our oversight and legislative activities during the 115th Congress. Unfortunately, the Committee has not yet held any activities to examine or respond to the growing threat of domestic terrorism, nor have I received a reply to my letter.

Tragically, just last week our Nation suffered another domestic terrorist attack. Jeremy Christian, a domestic terrorist, stabbed three people, killing two and seriously injuring a third. The killed and injured had been attempting to subdue Christian as he shouted religious hate speech at two girls believed to be Muslim on a Portland, Oregon train. It has been reported there is security footage of Christian yelling both racial and religious hate speech before and during the attack. This week, when Christian appeared in court, he shouted, "...You call it terrorism. I call it patriotism! You hear? Die."¹

These types of terrorist acts can no longer be ignored by this Committee for the sake of those who do not want to acknowledge that all forms of terrorism, no matter the ideology or the inspiration, are a threat to our safety, rights, and our homeland. Terrorist acts are carried out by individuals with various racial, religious, and political backgrounds, but they all have a common goal – to use violence and intimidation to advance their beliefs. Time and time again I have requested that our Committee fulfill its responsibility and commitment to "continue to conduct rigorous oversight of the Federal government's counterterrorism efforts including monitoring ongoing and emerging terror threats to the United States."²

¹ Nate Hanson, Portland suspect in courtroom rant: 'You call it terrorism. I call it patriotism!' (May 30, 2017), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/05/30/portland-train-stabbing-suspect/353963001/>

² House Committee on Homeland Security. 115th Congress. Authorization and Oversight Plan. Submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on the Budget on March 3, 2017.

It is time for our Committee to act. I look forward to a hearing on this important issue in the near future. Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Bennie" is written with a large, prominent "B". The middle initial "G." is written in a smaller, more compact script. The last name "Thompson" is written with a large, sweeping "T" and a long, trailing "p".

BENNIE G. THOMPSON

Ranking Member